Tourism development projects of Railways in Orissa

5497. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) rail projects proposed for development of tourism in Orissa, during the year 2002-2003 and subsequent thereto; and

(b) the proposals in hand to link the famous religious and historic tourist centre 'Sun God Temple' and other such centres in Orissa by rail, if not,the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Many of the places in Orissa which are of religious or historical interest are already linked directly by rail.

The following rail projects are in progress for development of tourism in Orissa State:

(i) Doubling of Khurda Road—Puri Section (Phase-I) *i.e.* Khurda Road to Delong.

(ii) Remodelling of Puri Section Yard. Additional platforms, extenstion of existing platforms to accommodate 24/26 coach trains etc.

(iii) Augmentation of coaching maintenance facilities at Puri for dealing of 24/26 trains.

New Schemes in 150th year of the Railways

†5498. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways is considering to initiate some new schemes on the occasion of completion of 150 years by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when these are likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the schemes which

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.